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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

May 22, 2004

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1648 - PRIORITY)
TAGS: PREL, KPAL
Captions: None
Subject: UAE CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS, CONVOKES
ENVOYS TO URGE PROGRESS ON MEPP
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 01648

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: RSO AMB DCM P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY
CLEARED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT

VZCZCADI256
PP RUEHC RUEHXX RUEHDE
DE RUEHAD #1648 1431258
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 221258Z MAY 04
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4452
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 4028

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 001648

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/IAI AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/21/14
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS,
CONVOKES ENVOYS TO URGE PROGRESS ON MEPP

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MARCELLE WAHBA FOR REASONS
1.5 (B) AND (D).

REF: USUN 1198

11. (C) UAE FOREIGN MINISTER RASHID ABDULLAH CONVOKED
RESIDENT AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES FROM UN SECURITY COUNCIL
MEMBER STATES THE EVENING OF MAY 20 TO EXPRESS UAEG
CONCERNS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN GAZA AND TO EXPRESS
APPRECIATION FOR PASSAGE OF UNSCR 1544, CONDEMNING
ISRAEL'S ACTIONS. DESCRIBING UNSCR 1544 AS A GOOD START,
THE UAE FM CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO
SUPPORT THE ROAD MAP AND URGED THE QUARTET TO REDOUBLE
EFFORTS TO GET THE PEACE PROCESS BACK ON TRACK. HE CALLED
THE SITUATION IN RAFAH "OUT OF CONTROL" AND SAID ALL

PARTIES NEEDED TO URGE BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIANS TO DO MORE TO ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS. ABDULLAH RASHED SAID THAT ARAB COUNTRIES WERE COMMITTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE PEACE IF ISRAEL WERE WILLING TO COOPERATE. HE REGRETTED THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO FOCUS ON SECURITY MORE THAN ON PEACE, SAYING THAT PEACE WOULD BRING SECURITY. THE FM SAID THE UAE WOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS AT THE ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT.

¶2. (U) IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE ASKED THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO STOP ISRAEL'S ACTIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS, PROTECT PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS, AND REVIVE THE PEACE PROCESS.

¶3. (U) ON MAY 19, THE UAE GOVERNMENT 19 ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT STRONGLY DENOUNCING ISRAEL'S "CRIMINAL ACTS" AGAINST PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING THE KILLING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES IN RAFAH REFUGEE CAMP. THE OFFICIAL UAE NEWS AGENCY QUOTED A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOURCE AS SAYING THAT THE UAE "REGARDS SUCH A CRIME BY ISRAELI OCCUPATION FORCES AS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND NORMS" THAT IS CONTRIBUTING TO AN ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE AND TENSION IN THE REGION. ISRAEL, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER SHARON, IS HAMPERING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO RESTORE PEACE IN THE REGION, THE SOURCE ADDED. THE UAE "APPEALS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF THE QUARTET, TO MAKE A FIRM AND EFFECTIVE MOVE TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AGAINST ISRAELI PRACTICES, HELP THEM SECURE THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS, AND FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT SITUATION."

¶4. (U) ALSO ON MAY 19, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHAYKH HAMDAN BIN ZAYED MET WITH FORMER PALESTINIAN PRIME MINISTER MAHMOUD ABBAS (ABU MAZEN) IN ABU DHABI. THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY REPORTED THAT ABBAS THANKED THE UAE FOR ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND BRIEFED HBZ ON STEPS THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY COULD TAKE AT THE ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO STOP THE AGGRESSION AGAINST PALESTINIANS.
WAHBA